

1-1 By: Castro, Strama (Senate Sponsor - Wentworth) H.C.R. No. 108
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 16, 2005;
1-3 May 17, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 20, 2005, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 20, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has traditionally recognized a
1-8 variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of
1-9 the proud spirit and heritage of our state; and

1-10 WHEREAS, Like the Texas longhorn, the Blue Lacy is a Texas
1-11 original; the only dog breed to have originated in this state, Lacys
1-12 are named for brothers George, Ewin, Frank, and Harry Lacy, who
1-13 moved to Texas from Kentucky in 1858 and settled in the area of
1-14 Burnet County; and

1-15 WHEREAS, The Lacy family bred cattle and hogs, so it was
1-16 natural that they would also breed dogs to work them; the family is
1-17 said to have used greyhound, scenthound, and coyote stock in
1-18 creating the animal that took their name; and

1-19 WHEREAS, For a hundred years, Blue Lacys were a common
1-20 fixture on ranches in the Southwest, where it was said that one such
1-21 dog could do the work of five cowboys; intelligent, energetic,
1-22 fast, eager to work, and easy to train and handle, Lacys herded
1-23 cattle, hogs, and chickens, and also served as droving and hunting
1-24 dogs; and

1-25 WHEREAS, With the declining use of working dogs on ranches,
1-26 Lacys almost disappeared as a breed; since 1975, however, there has
1-27 been a dedicated effort to save them, and their numbers now total
1-28 more than a thousand; most registered Lacys are currently bred in
1-29 Texas and sold to residents of the state; and

1-30 WHEREAS, While these gentle, versatile dogs continue to be
1-31 used on ranches, they are also becoming highly prized again as
1-32 hunting dogs and are proving valuable, as well, in search and rescue
1-33 work, owing to their keen scent-trailing ability; in addition,
1-34 their easygoing way with children, their aptitude for jogging,
1-35 agility courses, and games of Frisbee, and their suitability as
1-36 watch dogs are all contributing to their growing popularity as
1-37 family pets; and

1-38 WHEREAS, A medium-sized dog with a short, smooth, sleek coat,
1-39 the Lacy stands from 18 to 25 inches tall when full-grown and weighs
1-40 approximately 30 to 50 pounds; all Lacys carry a rare blue-color
1-41 gene, even though they are divided into three color
1-42 classifications: blue, red, and tri-color; and

1-43 WHEREAS, Lacys are recognized and registered through the
1-44 National Kennel Club, Continental Kennel Club, Universal Kennel
1-45 International, Lacy Game Dog Registry, Texas Lacy Game Dog
1-46 Association, and American Pet Registry, Inc.; and

1-47 WHEREAS, Along with its place of origin and its ranching
1-48 pedigree, this companionable dog boasts yet another association
1-49 with the State of Texas: in the 1880s, the Lacys were one of three
1-50 families who donated granite from Granite Mountain for the building
1-51 of the new State Capitol; and

1-52 WHEREAS, The Blue Lacy is a Texas native, a working dog bred
1-53 to play an essential role in ranch operations, at a time when
1-54 ranches themselves became one of the iconic Texas symbols, and a dog
1-55 that has more than pulled its weight on many a Texas spread; this
1-56 proud heritage assuredly gives the Lacy a unique and powerful claim
1-57 of its own to represent the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

1-58 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-59 hereby designate the Blue Lacy as the official State Dog Breed of
1-60 Texas.

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